GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2457
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2016
Shortage of Neurologists
Tanwar Shri Kanwar Singh

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of patients suffering from neurological disorders is increasing in the country, if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;

(b) the estimated number of qualified neurologists in the country;

(c) whether there is a shortage of qualified neurologists in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to meet the shortage of qualified neurologists in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)
(a): As per the World Health Organization (WHO), there has been a steady increase of neurological disorders globally (including India). As per the "Neurological Disorders: Public Health Challenges" report of the WHO published in the year 2006, neurological disorders contributed to estimated 6.29% of Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) as a percentage of Global DALYs in 2005, 6.39% in 2015 and 6.77% in 2030. The increase is partly due to longevity associated neurological diseases and partly due to improved awareness of such diseases among people.
(b) to (e): As reported by the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore, there is a shortage of qualified neurologists in the country with estimated 1400 qualified neurologists available in the country. The shortage can be attributed to the increase in patient load and the insufficient teaching infrastructure and faculty for providing training and capacity building in the country for neurologists. However, to enhance services of neurology in the country, the Government has taken the following steps:
I. Increase in the number of seats by Medical Council of India in the centres providing training in Neurology.

II. Establishment of six new AIIMS like institutions in the country.

III. Support for upgrading State Medical Colleges across the country so that these centres can impart training and services in tertiary care including Neurology.